

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SR-02 ORM-03 EA-11 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 015333

R 310920Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9400

INFO AMEMBAIMSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FPOR SREF PK IN BD

SUBJECT: INDO-PAK EXCHANGES: SIGN OF MOVEMENT

REF: ISLAMABAD 1026

1. INDIANS AND PAKS HAVE BEEN EXCHANGING NOTES FOR THE LAST MONTH ON NEXT STAGES IN TALKS ON SULA AGREEMENT PARA 3 ITEMS--COMMUNICATIONS, TRAVEL, TRADE, SICENTIFIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES, AND

JOINT SECRETARY (PAKISTAN) CHIB REVIEWED DIALOGUE WITH POLCOUNSELOR JANUARY 30. PAKS PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS ON PILGRIM EXCHANGES IN LATE FALL. INF AS RESPONDED AT END OF DECEMBER 1973 WITH REJECTION OF AD HOC STEPS AND SUGGESTED IMMEDIATE DISCUSSIONS REVIEWING WHOLE SUBJECT OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND TRAVEL, INCLUDING PILGRAMMAGES. PAKS REPLIED ON JANUARY 21 WITH PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSIONS  
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ON POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, SEA AND LAND COMMUNICATIONS BUT NOT ON BORDER POSTS AND AIR LINKS AND OVERFLIGHTS (WHICH INDIANS FEEL ARE PART OF THE SAME PACKAGE AND INCLUDED UNDER PARA 3(1) OF SIMLA AGREEMENT). INDIANS RESPONDED JANUARY 24 WITH RENEWED EMPHASIS ON DISCUSSIONS ON ALL ASPECTS OF TRAVEL (I, E., PARA 3(1) AND (II) OF SIMLA AGREEMENT) WITH PROPOSED MEETING SOON--CHIB SAID INDIANS WERE THINKING OF MARCH. CHIB SAID IF DISCUSSIONS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATIONS GET OFF THE GROUND, INDIANS WOULD THEN SEE GROUNDS FOR MOVING TOWARD RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS AS PART OF A PACKAGE. ASKED WHETHER PAKISTAN AWARE OF THIS, CHIB HEDGED AND MERELY SAID GOP KNEW WHAT INDIAN POSITION WAS. INDIANS SEE DISCUSSIONS AS TAKING OFF FROM REVIEW OF VARIOUS INDO-PAK AGREEMENTS DURING 1950S ON TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATION WITH OBJECT OF UPDATING OR REINSTATING THESE.

2. ON SUBJECT OF INDIANS AND PAK CIVILIANS HELD IN JAILS IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, CHIB SAID SWISS EMBASSIES IN NEW DELHI AND ISLAMABAD WERE ENGAGED IN LABORIOUS JOB OF TRACKING DOWN AND INTERVIEWING INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED. CHIB SAID 90 PAKISTANIS INTERVIEWED THUS FAR AND REPORTS SENT ON TO ISLAMABAD. PAKS HAD SENT ON FIVE INTERVIEWS WITH INDIANS, ALL BOOKED FOR "ESPIONAGE". CHIB SAID PROBLEM WAS PAKISTAN WANTED TO SEPARATE OUT INDIVIDUALS CHARGED ON SECURITY GROUNDS FROM OTHERS. INDIANS WANTED LIST EXCHANGE OF EVERYONE. NUMBERS INVOLVED ARE HAZY: ORIGINAL INDIAN

LIST OF PAKISTANIS IN INDIAN JAILS HANDED GOP TWO YEARS AGO HAD 790 NAMES AND PARALLEL LIST PAKISTAN GAVE INDIA HAD ABOUT 350. PAKISTANIS THEN GAVE INDIANS LIST OF INDIANS THEY HAD RECORD OF BEING IN PAKISTANI JAILS. THIS HAD ABOUT 380 NAMES WHICH OVERLAPPED ONLY IN 90 INSTANCES WITH ORIGINAL INDIAN LIST. INDIAN REVIEW OF ORIGINAL PAKISTANI LIST EQUALLY INCONCLUSIVE AND INCONSISTENT. SWISS EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE TELL US IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TRACKING DOWN PEOPLE IN INDIAN JAILS.

3. WE HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO ISLAMABAD'S REPORTING ON POW/ BENGALIEE/PAKISTANI EXCHANGES. INDIANS CLAIM NOT TO KNOW WHAT BANGLADESH PLANS TO DO ABOUT DEFINING "HARDSHIP CASES" AND CHIB SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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HE IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER PAKISTAN WILL, IN FACT, ACCEPT ALL BONA FIDE "THREE CATEGORY" PAKISTANIS OR HAVE FIXED CEILING BEYOND WHICH THEY WILL NOT GO. CHIB PROFESSES NO KNOWLEDGE ON BANGLADESH PLANS TO ATTEND ISLAMIC SUMMIT.

4. COMMENT: THROUGH PROCESS OF TO-ING AND FRO-ING INDIANS AND

PAKISTANIS APPEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME TO BE INCHING TOWARD  
DECISION TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS ON NEXT STEPS IN SIMLA AGREEMENT,  
EVEN WHILE 195 POWS STILL IN LIMBO. ALL THIS IS VERY MUCH TO THE  
GOOD AND ENCOURAGING AND POLCOUNSELOR MADE GENTLE WARM NOISES  
TO THIS EFFECT TO CHIB AND EXPRESSED HOPE NEW NEGOTIATIONS WOULD  
IN FACT MOVE AHEAD.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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